

UPDATE ON MANOR VIEW DUMP SITE

January 13, 2006

The following information was briefed at the local Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting on January 11, 2006.

We briefed the Manor View Dump site where soil gas testing results required us to move 12 families in a block of 20 homes from 4950-4964 Hayden Drive of Potomac Place. The residents that were moved were placed in comparable homes within that same neighborhood.

The installation commander and command sergeant major went to each home personally and talked with each of the families. Two families were given keys on December 22/23. Others were notified once they returned from being away for the holiday. (Only 12 of the homes were occupied at the time. The others were not occupied.) Only one resident (whose readings were not high) remains in the quarters and is making arrangements to move this week. They had been away for the holidays and just returned.

The Army is relocating the residents because we want to do the right thing and protect our families. We had vacant homes in the area to move them into. We believe it is safer to move the families now while we look for a solution to this problem. Then, once a solution is found, the homes will be available for use at that time. The families that moved will stay in their new homes. They will not be moved back to the homes, even if the problem is fixed in the near future.

BACKGROUND:

The installation of the trench was completed in August 2005 and was allowed to stabilize until soil gas samples testing the trench's effectiveness were collected on October 22/23, 2005 and sent to the lab for review. Those results, received December 8, 2005, caused us to conduct additional field testing on December 22, 2005 to validate one unexpectedly high reading. The test data showed the passive trench system had not worked as expected to prevent further migration of methane gas. The field tests detected very high levels of methane in the area behind one block of five homes. The command, working with Picerne Housing decided to act immediately in the interests of safety and relocate the three families living in these homes before Christmas. Further field tests were conducted on December 27, 2005. These indicated higher levels at two additional points, effecting 10 additional homes. With this information, the command and Picerne determined to vacate all 12 residents of the 20 homes bordering the former dump site. As of January 12, 11 families have been relocated; one will move next week. Ft. Meade is working actively with the Corps of Engineers and our environmental contractor to develop a plan for active extraction of methane from the site. This work has already begun and we believe that this will ultimately reduce methane levels to the point where the homes once again become habitable. Test pumps will begin operating on 13 January.